

CASTLEMAINE NATURALIST

108

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BAD PLANNING ?

Can this tree go on resisting progress and force the road to make a bend ? Or will it be decided that it constitutes a traffic hazard and have to be removed ? Not for a long time yet surely.

A rural scene at Muckleford

NOVEMBER AT CAMPBELLS CREEK

At last we are free from the Larvae of the Cup Moth. About Nov 12 the activity ceased with the cocoons in strange places, anywhere where there was a crevice; under bark on the trees being the most favoured. So in your ramblings do not hesitate to crush any you find as that will mean one less moth to lay eggs next time around. However the trees are picking up very well with plenty of new tips but still not enough foliage to woo our birds back especially the Thornbills. Never before at this time of year have we not had Spinebills, Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, Silver Eyes, Thornbills and Grey Fantails around our garden. Their absence must be caused by Cup Moths defoliating the cover and blossom of the Eucalypts.

Still all was not lost as a pair of White-faced Honeyeaters stayed and nested in a low shrub outside the Living Room. The shrub a bushy *Melaleuca hypericifolia* is only just over one metre high but quite wide and their nest was in the centre near the top. They produced two young which are now being mothered in various other shrubs; also the Crimson Rosellas have one young one out of the boxes caring for it in a small Cootamundra. Another box has young in it ready to move.

Last of the wildflowers, a few Trigger plants nearly finished, Billy-buttons still around and the Common Flax blooming. A couple of small shrubs with flowers starting up. As I write this I can hear the call of an Oriole in the distance,; rather monotonous. To finish, I would like to mention that I heard on the radio of a Councillor from the Murtoa district being concerned with the growth of sales of wood-fired combustion heaters. His concern was that a study should be done to see what damage to the Ecosystem was about to take place by the gathering of firewood of all sorts in certain areas. Like the old mining days when everything went for timber props and fires for the boilers.

Something to think about for 1986

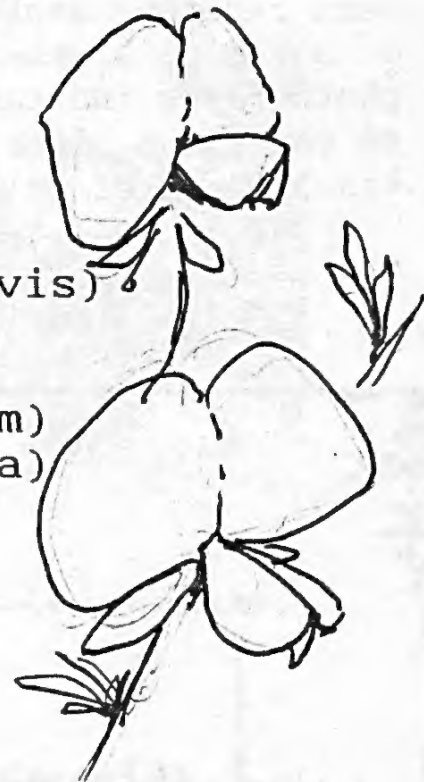
Terry

Rumours have been circulating that our animal-nurse secretary is clucky again. It is not true. Well, not quite. Certainly Berri does now have a baby kangaroo, but those who keenly scan her figure to figure out where she is keeping it will be disappointed. Unlike her other charges who lived down the front of her dress, this baby has an external pouch. The baby Gliders which have graduated from the front of her dress to a hollow log are reported to be thriving and may be independent enough to be released into the wild early next year

PLANT LIST FOR BARKERS CREEK

This is the list of plants in flower seen on the wednesday afternoon outing to Barkers Creek, not far from the tip. Seven people went along , and all seemed to enjoy walking through this patch of bush which the Club hasn't visited previously.

Silky parrot pea (*Dillwynia sericea*)
Karalla (*Gompholobium heuglii*)
Tall bluebell (*Wahlenbergia stricta*)
Grey everlasting (*Helichrysum obcordatum*)
Golden everlasting (*H. bracteatum*)
Showey podelepis (*Podelepis jaceoides*)
Blue (Black anther) flax lily (*Dianella laevis*)
Chocolate lily (*Dicopogon strictus*)
Milkmaids (*Burchardia umbellata*)
Grass trigger plant (*Stylidium graminifolium*)
Pink bells (one flower!) (*Tetratheca ciliata*)
Hooded caledenia (*Caledenia cuculata*)
Musky caledenia (*C. angustata*)
Dotted sun orchid (*Thelymitra ixiodes*)
Greencomb spider orchid (*C. dilitata*)
Fairy waxflower (*Eriostemon verrucosus*)
Slender riceflower (*Pimelea linifolia*)
Alpine grevillea (*Grevillea alpina*)



White marianth, once *Marianthus procumbens*, but now completely different, being even placed in a different genus. It is now *Rhytidosporum procumbens*, which is why I can no longer remember its name!

Rita Mills

More Superstitious Beliefs

More snippets from Terry C. Not to be taken too seriously, or is it ? Strange that our Rosemary bush has always been one of the healthiest plants in our garden.

ROSEMARY : A magical plant that will only grow in the garden when the lady rules the house. It signifies friendship and affection and "rosemary, that's for Remembrance" is one of Shakespeares's best known lines. Its power is said to be strong and as long as you carry it with you you slll be protected from thunder, lightning, injury and physical attack. It also keeps evil spirits, Plague and disease away. If you sniff a piece of Rosemary three times a day you will never grow old. For old people who want to become young again a few baths in Rosemary water will do the trick.

TREE PLANTING CEREMONY

It may not be unusual to find Field Nats planting native trees, but recently at Kaweka Wildflower Reserve a special ceremony was held to mark two important anniversaries. The 150th birthday of the state was honoured and commemorated by the planting of a tree by the inaugural president of the Kaweka Reserve, Mr Douglas Mactier, while at the same ceremony another tree was planted to mark the 10th anniversary of our club by the foundation president, Mr Ray Bradfield. As the photographs indicate, a number of members of both bodies were on hand to cheer and offer advice. The trees, a Blue Box and a White Box, were kindly donated by Ian Higgins.



Above:

The group who turned out to Kaweka to honour two birthdays



Left:

Former President Ray plants his commemoration tree, while Ern checks to see that he has tickled the roots properly.

Right

An expert tree planter. No-one has done more work in Kaweka over the years than Frank Blake. Here he is shown adding another to the many trees and shrubs he has planted.





Mr Douglas Mactier
planting a commemoration
tree in Kaweka Reserve.
By no means the first
he has planted there.

Wednesday Idyll

The last Wednesday afternoon excursion for this year took five of us to the Wattle Flat Reserve. (Area B).

The most widespread carpeting was done by rubbish ancient and modern and the most noteworthy bird, detected by Beth Ibbotson was that on a piece of broken china.

In the hope of more interesting birding, (and for me, breezes to temper the warm sun), we moved to the gravel highway constructed as part of the 150th Celebrations on the Eastern boundary of the Pony Club. The breezes were refreshing but the birds weren't very. Two Gold Finches, Superb Blue Wrens, a Kookaburra, a Mudlark and Starlings only.

Retracing our steps a little, we drove along an unnamed road linking Richards and Odgers Roads with lush grazing land along the valley floor on our left. We stopped to watch Woodduck at a dam edge and then in the lightly timbered bush on our right we were entertained by two Wattle birds feeding their two young. A Chough on its mud pot on a bough sited over the track watched us and we were disappointed not to see the owner of what could have been a Mudlark nest next tree along the row.

Repassing the pony club we noted a group of about twelve rabbits taking tea near a blackberry patch at the creek edge.

Barbara.

BIRDING WITH MAGGIE

Maggie had certainly chosen well.

Saturday, November 9th was a beautiful day, and those members of this club who gathered at the Gowar School to await the arrival of the B.O.C bus from Melbourne thoroughly enjoyed the warm spring sunshine, the company and the many birds which were about in that part of the woods. For some there was also a visit to a huge Wedge-tailed Eagle's nest on private property, a short drive from the Gowar ruins. What a huge task those birds had had. Literally thousands of twigs and branches hoisted up into a tree to form a nest which by now assumed gigantic proportions and must have been handed down by several generations of eagle. The present incumbents were observed perched on a stump at some distance away. By the time the expedition moved off to Mt Tarrengowar, the bird list looked something like this

Peaceful Dove	Common Bronzewing	Galah
Musk Lorikeet	Red Rmpd Parrot	East. Rosella
Pallid Cuckoo	Welcome Swallow	Hooded Robin
Jacky Winter	Rufous Whistler	Sup. F. Wren
Fuscous H'eater	Spotted P'lote	Striated P'lote
White Browed W Swall,	Dusky Woodswallow	Aust. Raven
Magpie	Sacred K'fisher	Willy Wagtail
Wedge T Eagle	Rufous Songlark	

A picnic lunch was had on the Western slopes of Mt Tarrengower. After this pleasant interlude Birdos scattered in all directions. A final bird call prior to the departure of the bus revealed that the following birds had been added to the day's list.

Brown Falson	Crimson Rosella	Shining Bronze C'koo
Kookaburra	Rainbow Bee-eater	Black F C Shrike
White-W Triller	Eastern Yellow Robin	Crested Shrike Tit
Grey Sh. Thrush	Crested B'Bird (h)	R'less Flycatcher
Grey Fantail	Speckled Warbler	Weebill
Western Gerygone	Buff-rumper T'bill	Yellow R T'bill
(White tailed Warbler)	Striated T'bill	Southern Whiteface & nest
Varied Sitella	White Th. T. Creeper	Brown Tree Creeper
Red Wattle Bird	And to be checked -	Black-eared Cuckoo
(Surprise)		

Car stickers If you have not yet purchased your WVFNCA car sticker please note that they are still available at a cost of 30c. As we are the club which put forward the suggestion to have them perhaps we should make an effort to display them.

Bird lists of the area are also available.

CASTLEMAINE F.N.C. AGENDA

Excursions leave promptly at the times shown.

Fri 13 Dec MEMBERS AND VISITORS. Bring some specimens, some observations and maybe some slides or photographs, or some of your experiences (about Natural History!). And bring a plate.

Sat 14 Dec FRYERS RIDGE. Leave SEC, Mostyn St at 1.30. We will look at the late Spring wildflowers. This is about the best time to visit the Ridge area. Bring a picnic tea, and do some evening bird-spotting.

Thurs 23 Jan Business meeting at 28 Campbell St at 7.30.

Fri 14 Feb THE KIMBERLEYS. Maggie Oliver will tell us about her visit to the top half of Western Australia with the Bird Observers' Club, and show some of the BOC slides taken on the trip. This is also the annual meeting. 8p.m. at the High School.

Sat 15 Feb 1986. POND LIFE AND WATER BIRDS at the North Harcourt Reservoir. Meet SEC, Mostyn St at 1.30.

Fri 14 Mar WESTERN AUSTRALIA. George Broadway will tell us about his visit to the bottom half of the West, and show some of his slides.

Sat 15 Mar BELLS SWAMP & LAANACCOORIE. A summer excursion to look at birds. Leave SEC, Mostyn St at 1.30 p.m.

Fri 11 Apr Speaker to be confirmed

Sun 13 Apr CHEWTON GOLD RELICS with Ken McKimmie. SEC at 1.30 p.m.

The excursion to the Bendigo Settling ponds has been put off to a cooler month.

CASTLEMAINE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB INC.

Post Office Box 324, Castlemaine, 3450.

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Treasurer: Mr Stan Bruton, View St.